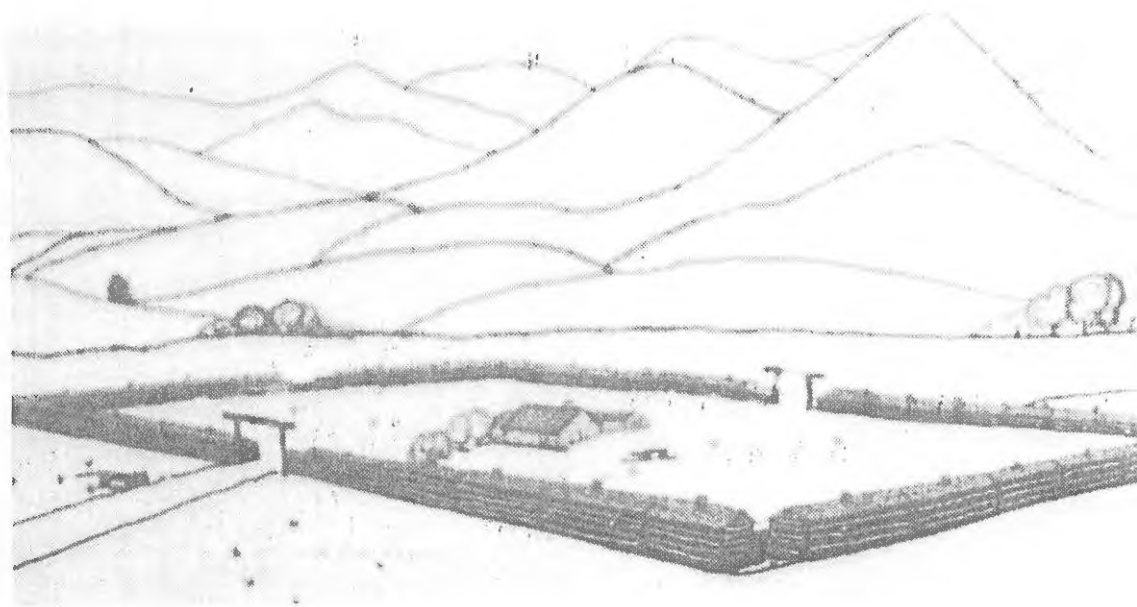


WHY MIDWAY?

When the Mormon Pioneers came to the valleys of Utah, the master plan of development included the settlement of a string of villages running north and south from Canada to Mexico. The development to the east and west of Salt Lake Valley was of lesser importance to those earlier colonizers, thereby leaving some of the most choice valleys of the territory to be settled later. (Excuse the bias). Beautiful Heber Valley, (originally called Provo Valley) was one of the mountain valleys to be left for later development. It was not until some ten years later, 1858, that the first permanent residents came to this valley. These original immigrants to the "Provo" valley came from settlements in the Utah Valley, and came to see if they could raise a cow herd in these lush meadows. They were soon followed by the first groups of farmers who settled in the area now encompassed by Heber City. With all due respect, I can't expect them to hit it right the first time, although they were close, very close. It was not until the following year, 1859, that the first settlements began in what was to become known as Midway.

At first, most of the farmers began to develop their farms in an area some five miles north of the present site of Midway's Town Square, to take advantage of the warm ground around the "Hot Pot" mounds, which helped them get a longer growing season and better crops. In fact, this first settlement was known as Mound City. Another settlement, Cottonwood, was begun to the south of the current town square, and was also known as the lower settlement.

In 1866, Indian troubles began to worry the government leaders in Salt Lake, and they advised the people in the two Snake Creek settlements to join together for self-protection's sake. The problem not considered by the Salt Lake leaders, was which town would move to which town. In this contest of wills, neither side would budge. The logical compromise? Each side move to a site "Midway" between, hence the name of the new town was born.



Fort Midway